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Elk Point Review

Vol. 37 No. 38 | Tuesday, September 18, 2018 | $1.10 GST Included

Fires, smoke, firearms on Town's agenda

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The first regular meeting in a month had Elk Point town council facing a 300-plus page agenda last week, with the first item of business a presentation of a $5,000 donation toward the airport lighting project made by Elk Point Elks Exalted Ruler Geoff Hoyle and Lawrence Pidluzny.

Later in the meeting, council agreed to send a letter of thanks to the Elks, and heard that the lighting project is progressing well.

ELKS LODGE CONTRIBUTES - Elk Point Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Geoff Hoyle and member Lawrence Pidluzny brought a very large cheque to last week's meeting of Elk Point Town Council, presenting a welcome $5,000 contribution toward the Elk Point Airport's lighting upgrade project. Accepting the donation were (left to right) Couns. Tim Smereka and Debra McQuinn, Mayor Lorne Young and Deputy Mayor Dwayne Yaremkevich.
Vicki Brooker photo

Fire Chief Lyle Frisby and fire inspector Rob Duffy visited council to give their input on a proposed fire pit and barbecue structure policy that evolved from a discussion earlier in the year regarding fire bans. At that time, council questioned if the town is required to follow whatever fire bans the County of St. Paul puts in place, or only province-wide bans. Frisby said that to his knowledge, towns and villages are exempt under provincial regulations from fire bans in surrounding municipalities because they have fire protection readily available and are at less risk, but should follow provincial regulations regarding bans. "It just makes it safer for everybody."

Duffy agreed that, "a lot of (the fire risks facing the surrounding county) don't apply to towns."

Most urban centers don't have a fire ban policy in place. Many of them do, however, have fire pit policies or bylaws, and council agreed that barbecue structures should be removed from Elk Point's proposed policy, which would then regulate only recreational fire pits.

Duffy suggested that once the conditions of a policy are determined, a permit process be put in place with a one-time fee, allowing his department or the fire department to inspect the pits. "This would set the guidelines and give us structure." Whether existing fire pits would also require inspection, and details regarding size, depth and location of fire pits, were also part of the discussion. That discussion will continue at a later date, with the policy tabled to the Dec. 10 meeting.

The fire chief also gave council a rundown on the transformer fire the previous Saturday evening that resulted from the severe thunderstorm in the area, noting that it took three hours before it was deemed safe for his crew to put out the fire on the platform, and that only the accompanying heavy rain saved the platform from being demolished. Seven other lightning strikes damaged power lines in the area.

(Continued on Page 2

Chamber gearing up for scarecrows, Extravaganza

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce is off to a running start on a new season, with their first meeting after the summer break setting the pace for a busy fall and winter of activities.

This summer saw renovations and upgrades to the Eco Centre that prepared the upper floor to become the home of a new business, JT Wellness Massage Therapy, while on the main floor; the chamber's summer employee Kolbie Poitras provided information to a steady stream of tourists.

Given the opportunity to take over promotion and judging of Elk Point's annual Scarecrow Contest from the town's recreation department, the chamber agreed to take on the event, and will sponsor the prizes for the three top business entries, while the Town of Elk Point will continue to sponsor the three residential prizes. The chamber will hold the contest during Small Business Week, Oct. 14 to 20, and those wishing to enter must do so before 5 p.m. on Oct. 12 by emailing their address to info@elkpointchamber.ca

"Why would we not?" was the answer when chamber president Terri Hampson asked the membership if the chamber should carry on the long tradition of spearheading the Christmas Extravaganza. The question of whether to hold the event on Friday, Nov. 23 or Saturday, Nov. 24, which is also the day of F. G. Miller High School's craft show, was discussed, with many expressing a preference for the Friday evening format. Hampson indicated that whichever day is chosen, "the school will work with us." Volunteers were eager to join a planning committee, and even more have jumped on the bandwagon since the meeting. The Extravaganza Committee will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 18 to start planning the event.

Another major chamber project is already underway. The president passed around a prototype of a brochure listing chamber members, and noted that only the few who have handed in logos and information are currently on the pages, with others to be added as the submissions come in. Members who do not submit information will listed by name, address and contact information. The goal is to have the brochure available at member businesses. Hampson noted that the County of St. Paul and Elk Point FCSS already has a comprehensive community directory listing agencies and organizations in place and there is no need to duplicate that information.

(Continued on Page 3)

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Town Council

(Continued from Front Page)

Cannabis

With time growing short before the legalization of cannabis, council passed a motion to have administration prepare amendments to the land use bylaw that would make retail cannabis stores a discretionary use in C1 areas, providing they are not within 100 metres of a school, schoolyard, daycare or hospital, and for production as a discretionary use in areas zoned M (Industrial). A subsequent motion to have discretionary use changed to permitted use was defeated.

Creating a draft of a cannabis consumption bylaw was tabled to the Oct. 9 meeting, after other jurisdictions receive legal input on their consumption bylaws. It was noted that different rules in different municipalities may make the bylaws more difficult to enforce, and it was agreed that making the rules more restrictive in the beginning would be a good move, as it is easier to loosen the restrictions than to make them stronger.

Firearms

In response to a question from Coun. Tim Smereka, CAO Ken Gwozdz unearthed Elk Point's only bylaw pertaining to firearms, the fourth clause of a bylaw passed on Dec. 30, 1953, which also dealt with loitering, obscene or offensive language, disorderly or unseemly conduct. That clause stated that: "No person shall discharge a gun or other firearm nor shall any person fire or set off any fireballs, squibs, crackers or fireworks within the Village without first obtaining permission from the Village Constable." A motion was passed to prepare a draft bylaw regarding the use of firearms within town limits.

Redistricting

Council gave first reading to an amendment to the land use bylaw changing a property on Highway 41 from Highway Commercial C2 to Central Commercial C1. With major repairs required to the Outback 646, the owners decided not to reopen the building as a restaurant but instead to convert it to a functional office building with meeting space for 10 months of the year and private dining space for clients in the other two months. Council also passed a motion to refund the rezoning application fee if the amendment is successful.

No response

The town has not had any response to a letter sent to the owners of the property south of Tags which is frequently used as parking lot, concerning holes on the property that are impacting the infrastructure along Railway Ave. Public Works Superintendent Jay Duffee feels the best option is to bring in crushed concrete to fix the areas of the street affected by the holes.

Water rates

Concerning recent articles regarding a water rate decrease in the St. Paul Journal and Elk Point Review, the CAO said the town had been aware of the recalculation of rates in July. The town does not buy water from the town of St. Paul, he noted, the water commission buys it from the town of St. Paul and sells it to the town of Elk Point. The $1.77 reduced rate noted in the second article "is not what the town pays the commission," Gwozdz said. "The town pays $4.00 per cubic metre, and after the basic fee for 14 cubic metres, we charge $4.28 per cubic metre." The cost to the town was reduced by 33 cents, he said, "Do we want to pass that on to our customers? Council agreed to leave the water rate at the current amount, and to put the savings into water reserves to pay down the cost of the replacement water meters sooner. Residents currently pay $7 per month into those reserves for the same purpose.

Curling rink

Council agreed to once more waive the cost of property insurance on the curling rink, as has been done in years past.

Off-road vehicles

Complaints from residents have been received by councillors regarding the use of off-road vehicles in town. It was noted that St. Paul allows off-road vehicles to access food, fuel, lodging and repairs. Elk Point's bylaw will be reviewed at the Nov. 13 meeting.

Taxes come in

Gwozdz reported that 91 per cent of current residential taxes had been paid prior to the deadline to pay without added penalties, and said he feels the town "did very well in a very tough economy." A property with taxes three years in arrears was to be sold on Wednesday.

Bulk water fill station

The bulk water fill station is now completed except for programming new software. Due to delays on engineering specs on the concrete pad and pilings, Public Works will not be proceeding with the installation of those, along with heating lines and boiler, "because weather can change drastically next month," Gwozdz reported.

GREATER LAKELAND RURAL CRIME WATCH
MEETING
Thursday, Sept. 20th, 2018
Cty. of St. Paul basement-South side
at 7:00 p.m.

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If a new agreement is not reached by September 26, 2018, a lockout or strike may occur.
This could disrupt the delivery of your St. Paul Journal/Elk Point Review.

If you receive your paper through Canada Post, we are making arrangements to have your copy available at a convenient location near you. If you are a subscriber, and Canada Post has stopped delivery, you can pick up your copy at:

St. Paul Journal Office	4813 - 50 Ave.	St. Paul
Elk Point Review Office	5022 - 49 Ave.	Elk Point
St. Brides Esso	HWY 36 & 28	St. Brides
Foisy General Store	SW of 4th 57-11-W4	Foisy
Mallaig General Store	3513 Main St.	Mallaig
Gisele's Coffee Shop	TWP Road 614 & RG Road 104	St. Lina
Glendon Drugs	5012 Railway Ave.	Glendon
Cholak Store	5003 - 50 Ave..	Spedden
D & E Family Grocery	5027 - 50 St.	Vilna
Boyne Lake General Store	HWY 866	Boyne Lake
Two Hills Foods	5002 Diefenbaker Ave.	Two Hills
CJ's Cafe	5009 - 49 St.	Myrnam
Bison Auto	HWY 652 - 51 St.	Saddle Lake
Randy's Store		Goodfish Lake
Frog Lake General Store	AB 897	Frog Lake

In some locations we will be using street vending boxes that will have the logo and name of a different newspaper on it. These could include: FFWD Weekly (Silver), Saint City News (Black) or the St. Albert Gazette (Blue). Signs will be posted on the front of each box to indicate St. Paul Journal/Elk Point Review papers are inside.

A complete listing and map of all temporary distribution locations can also be found by following the link on the front page of our website: http://www.spjournal.com

Hanson wins new constituency's UCP nomination

JANICE HUSER
With files from the Bonnyville Nouvelle

Current Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills UCP MLA Dave Hanson confirmed late Wednesday night that he had won the United Conservation Party nomination for the new Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul constituency.

Other candidates in the running included Glenn Spiess, and Cold Lake mayor Craig Copeland.

Voting wrapped up in St. Paul at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, and had taken place over three days in different voting stations across what will be the new constituency in the next provincial election.

"I'm ecstatic, actually, and it's a relief. It's been a long haul since June and a lot of work for myself, my wife, and my team," said Hanson. "It's always good to get to the end, and I commend the other candidates for a job well done, hard work, and keeping it clean."

United Conservative Leader Jason Kenney issued a statement following the nomination, also confirming that Hanson would be the party's candidate for the Bonnyville-Cold Lake for the 2019 provincial election and congratulating him on the win.

Overall, 1,317 members cast their ballots between Sept. 10 to 12 in Cold Lake, Bonnyville, Glendon, St. Paul, and Elk Point.

President of the Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul UCP constituency Ron Young said the voting process was hectic, but there was a excellent turnout.

"That's a tiny bit higher than 60 per cent of the members, and that's always a good thing when you get that high of a turnout," Young explained.

It was an exciting voting process, and Young noted he wasn't expecting the results to unfold the way they did.

"The surprise for me was I expected that someone would win on the first ballot. The fact that it went to the second ballot is, I think, a good thing, because it tells Dave exactly what he has to work on as the new MLA to ingrain himself to people."

"First elected as the MLA for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills in 2015, Dave has served his constituents, and all Albertans with skill and integrity. As the UCP Caucus Indigenous Relations Critic, he has been an effective advocate for Indigenous communities across Alberta. I am pleased to know Dave will continue to be an integral part of our United Conservative team," said Kenney.

Hanson thanked the other candidates for their participation in the democratic process.

"I'd just like to thank my opponents for a clean and fair nomination process."

Boundaries

Last October, it was announced that the final electoral boundaries report would see the County of St. Paul and St. Paul Education Regional Division split. Hanson opted to run in the Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul constituency rather than the Athabasca-Barrhead constituency. Hanson's residence is essentially right on the board of the two constituencies.

Communities such as Mallaig, St. Vincent, Boscombe and Ashmont are in the Athabasca-Barrhead constituency, while the Town of St. Paul and Saddle Lake Cree Nation are in the Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul constituency.

Chamber

(Continued from Front Page)

The Eco Centre's outdoor washroom came under discussion, with all agreeing that while it is an asset for events using the Iron Horse Trail, it is not practical to have it open on a daily basis. Incidents in the past have required RCMP involvement and raised safety concerns, and there is also no plan in place for cleaning and stocking the facility. It was agreed to have the washroom open when events are underway, with event hosts contacting the chamber for access and possibly paying a deposit to cover cleaning if required. The executive will investigate the cost of cleaning service. The Town has now removed the porta-potties adjacent to the Snowmobile Club cabin CAO Ken Gwozdz said.

The final report on the chamber's first-ever Spring Fling is in, and totaled up to a $37.30 net loss, but organizers still feel it was "pretty good for a first try, it will be better next year. We learned a lot from it." Suggestions for the Second Annual Spring Fling included replacing the band with a DJ and adding activities to the program. The committee expects to start planning for the 2019 event in December.

The September Member Spotlight was on Community Futures St. Paul-Smoky Lake, and although CF's Penny Fox was unable to attend, her presentation was circulated. Community Futures has been a chamber member for at least six years, and has been a national program for more than 30 years, with the St. Paul – Smoky Lake office registered in 1989. The program offers small business development advice and loans and works within the communities on economic development projects. They have strong working relationships with municipal and First Nations partners, community groups and individuals, "all engaged in enriching our communities." Their services are free.

NEW BUSINESS OWNERS Rimpal Patel (left) and Bhaagyeshi Patel were welcomed to Elk Point's business community by Chamber Of Commerce president Terri Hampson at their Subway Grand Opening on Sept. 8.

FCSS | Family and Commur Support Services

SENIORS INFORMATION SESSION

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

Federal:
Old Age Security
Guaranteed Income Supplement
Canada Pension Plan

Provincial:
Alberta Seniors Benefit
Special Needs Assistance for Seniors
Dental and Optical Assistance for Seniors
Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair Program
Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program

Date: October 3, 2018
Time: 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Location: Elk Point Seniors Center
Address: 5010-48 Street

Date: October 4, 2018
Time: 1:30pm – 3:30 pm
Location: Reunion Station
Address: 4112-53 Ave.

Date: October 5, 2018
Time: 1:30pm – 3:30pm
Location: Mallaig Seniors/ Unity Center
Address: 3009 Park Ave, Mallaig

Alberta Government

Iron Horse Ultra ready to put runners to the test

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

While the overall number of athletes registered for the upcoming Iron Horse Ultra is slightly down from last year, there are more athletes willing to take on the 100 km and 100 mile routes as solo runners, according to one of the event organizers.

As of last week, there were 31 runners registered for the 100 km mile run, and 20 athletes signed up for the 100 mile course, said Monique Poulin, one of the event organizers. There are also seven teams signed up for the 100 mile course, and six signed up for the 100 km route.

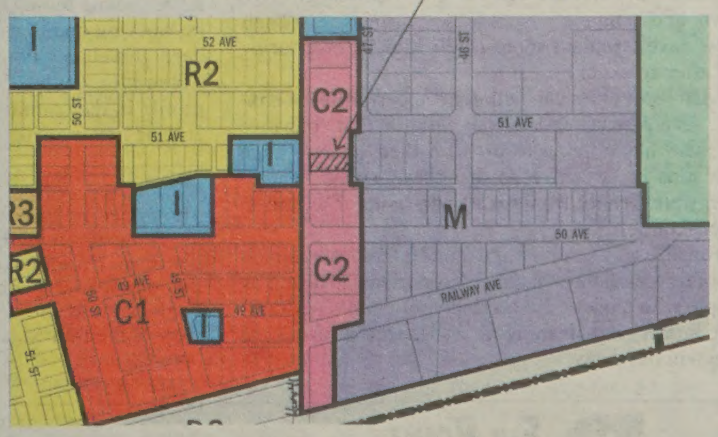
The race will begin on Sept. 29 at 7 a.m. at Reunion Station in St. Paul. Runners will travel a lengthy course that follows the Iron Horse Trail, but also crosses over private property and public roadways, which means local motorists are asked to keep an eye open throughout the weekend. *(Continued on Page 7)*

Town of Elk Point
Notice of Public Hearing
Bylaw No. 774/18

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, as amended, the Council of the Town of Elk Point proposes to adopt Bylaw No. 774/18 for the Town to enact:

- The Land Use Bylaw 717/13 for the Town of Elk Point is hereby amended by changing the designation of PT NW 6-57-6-W4 from Highway Commercial (C2) District to Central Commercial (C1) District.

Schedule A
Rezoning C2 to C1 – Pt. N.W.6-57-6-W4th



A copy of the proposed bylaw may be reviewed and inspected by the public at the Town of Elk Point Office during the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

At 7:00 PM on October 9, 2018 the Council of the Town of Elk Point will cause a Public Hearing to be held in the Town Council Chambers at the Town of Elk Point Office, at which time objections or comments regarding the proposed bylaw may be given and received. Submissions in writing can be emailed to **town@elkpoint.ca** or faxed to **780-724-2762.**

Ken Gwozdz, Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Elk Point
Box 448, Elk Point, Alberta T0A 1A0

Dated at Elk Point, AB this 5th day of September, 2018.

Editorial

Good fall weather needed

"Think I'll go out to Alberta,
The weather's good there in the fall..."

So sang Ian Tyson in his classic, 'Four Strong Winds.' We hope he's right.

Good weather has been sadly lacking in September, and the forecast for this week, admittedly better than last week's unseasonable dump of snow, is still not what we expect at this time of year. Autumn officially arrives on Saturday, September 22, and at this point, Saturday's forecast is for a blistering hot four degrees Celsius, cloudy with sunny breaks.

Four degrees is not going to dry out soggy swaths and get the harvest back on track, and we can only hope that things improve from then on. Our farmers have had enough challenge with high input prices and in many cases, having to finish up last year's harvest before they could plant this year's crop, and they don't need any more setbacks.

Another look at the forecast shows that Thursday, Friday and Saturday are the low point on the 14 day forecast, with a steady incline that brings the high temperatures closer to the historical average of 14 degrees, with lows to be higher than the historical average.

Uncooperative weather at harvest time is nothing unusual, but is certainly something we can do without in this area. Still, it's better than the hurricanes and typhoons that are battering other places around the world, and it's unlikely any of us will have to be rescued from our rooftops by boat.

Back to School

When fear of failure becomes an obsession

Max does everything he can to not let his parents down. Kim always strives to outdo herself. Alice is very competitive. William is extremely perfectionist.

Like many other young people, these four kids tend to get highly nervous before exams. However, their fear of failing and being judged may be much more than temporary stress: sometimes, it becomes a full-fledged obsession. This is known as performance anxiety.

Throughout their education, students with performance anxiety experience all sorts of symptoms, from stomach aches to nausea, eating disorders, panic attacks, insomnia and depression. They may study excessively or, on the contrary, give up on everything if they fear they will fail.

They may shut themselves away, put themselves down and imagine worst-case scenarios. Their stress levels remain inordinately high before, during and after an exam.

Many strategies can help relieve performance anxiety. As a parent, remind your children that your love for them has nothing to do with their grades. Urge your kids to be active so that they expend pent-up energy and benefit from extra endorphins (the stress-relief hormone).

Breathing exercises and mindfulness meditation are other techniques that have been tried and tested by people with anxiety. If you find your child's performance anxiety is becoming an issue, seek professional help without delay.

Way Back When...

Rubble, ratepayer meeting, recreational trail, penalty relief

Here's the news that made the headlines of the Lakeland Review and the Elk Point Review for the week of Sept. 17 in...

1988

Rubble in the hall, no heat in the office, gutted washrooms and makeshift classrooms on the stage were part of back-to-school adjustments for Elk Point Elementary School's students and staff, with a $830,000 modernization project to continue until spring. A new generation of golfers was receiving encouragement from one of Elk Point Golf and Country Club's most senior members, Ron Barwick, who presented a beautiful new Junior 12 and Under challenge trophy to its first recipient, Mark Woytkiw.

1993

A plaque honouring fort builder and fur trader William Tomison of the Hudson's Bay Company was unveiled at Fort George and Buckingham House Interpretive Centre during Fall Rendezvous 1993. Division 2 ratepayers met with County Coun. Ray Danyluk in the second of an ongoing series of information meetings aimed at keeping the ratepayers in touch with what was happening in the county council and school board.

1998

Elk Point Historical Society's Iron Horse Trail Committee was progressing toward making an all-season recreational trail available, with washouts repaired on the former CN railway grade and County Coun. Allan Young telling the committee that graders would be working on the east end to see what was under the deep gravel. Elk Point Community Advisory Policing Committee was back on track for fall with raising their profile in the community a top priority on the agenda at their first meeting of the new season.

2003

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance held an open house for all ages, including groups of students who were fascinated by the creatures found in river water. Fou rout of five town councillors voted in favour of waiving the penalty on taxes paid Sept. 2, because Aug. 30 and 31 fell on the weekend, with Sept. 1 the Labour Day holiday, making payment prior to Sept. 1 difficult for those paid on the last day of the month.

2008

Elk Point's Grandparents' Day Walk raised a total of $4,753, with Peggy Maas again the top fundraiser, bringing in $1,205. There was a full house for Information Night, with a wide range of groups, organizations and agencies on hand to offer information on upcoming activities, programs and services.

2013

The Town of Elk Point was approved for more than $180,000 in Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding for 2013, and town manager Myron Goyan told council, "The money is in the bank, and it's up to you how you distribute it." Mayor Parrish Tung said the money is to be distributed to non-profit groups a needing financial support for their projects and operations.

POWERED DOWN - The operation of the wind turbine at the Visitor Information Eco Centre was suspended under an order from the Alberta Utilities Commission, in response to a noise complaint registered againt the power generation unit.

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

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Busy week for ECDC

Last week was extra busy for Elk Point Early Childhood Development Committee. At right, Lana St. Arnault, Kenna Leatham and (not shown) Melissa Skarsen presented an iPad Krayon Kiosk to Elk Point Municipal Library Manager Daphne Schnurer on Thursday, in the midst of preparting to welcome parents and youngsters to Saturday's Fun Day - Run Day at Elk Point Elementary School (left).

FUN DAY - Youngsters had a great time at Saturday's event, which also featured hot dogs, pizza and a large selection of donated clothing, free for the taking.

Photos submitted

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Elk Point Review

THANK YOU

Ashley and I want to thank everyone for coming out to our fund raiser dance Saturday night. It means more to us than words can express. We really don't want to miss anyone so I wont start naming too many names but thank you so much to everyone that made this night possible. Melissa Skarsen asked me if she could do this for us, we thank her and her husband Lane for their generosity. From planning to organizing and personally donating so much, shes kept busy!. Thanks for the donations, for the use of the arena, the food, and the band. These are such generous donations. To all the volunteers, cash donations and all the silent auction donations, thank you again, this community is amazing. We are very proud to be a part of it.

I not only want to thank you all for putting on a fund raiser dance for us but for the whole past year. For shovelling my driveway, cutting my grass, keeping the RC flying field going, helping us organize Jody's things, watching my dog, and picking up Ashley from school for me, when I'm having a bad day. Late night calls when I'm having a bad night and making me laugh... I love you for that... for sitting with me through chemo and taking care of me after, for going to Mexico with me for treatment and watching Ashley while I'm gone. A smile at the Co-op, a wave passing by and words of encouragement. You know who you all are. We thank you.

My family, friends and this community have made Ashley and I feel so loved and given me so many reasons to keep fighting!

I especially want to thank my mom and dad. They have stood by me and have done so much for me. Many times they could be doing so many other things now that they are retired, but they have put them off to help Ashley and I. We love you both so much.

I want to thank my brother Wade and his wife Lori for watching Ashley while I'm gone, for my sister Colleen for her strong support and encouragement. For Jody's side of the family for supporting us through all this, as well as Roxanne and Brad ... I could go on all night. If I need anything done, my sister drops what she is doing for me. Thanks Brad for putting up with it. Thank you to my uncle Vic and cousin Ryan for coming all the way from Ontario. It means a lot.

What can I say about Ashley … She is one strong, brave girl who has been through more than any young girl should go through. She is always by my side and I love her. I know because of this community she will always have your love and support too. Ashley and I both again thank you for everything! Your support keeps us strong!

Royal Purple helps out with local causes

ELK POINT MUNICIPAL LIBRARY benefitted from a $1,200 donation from Royal Purple, accepted by Friends of the Library chair Sherry Milholland, library manager Daphne Schnurer and Library Board chair Laverne Wilson.

THIS ONE'S FOR RHONDA - Melissa Skarsen, one of the organizers of last week's Life with Rhonda fundraiser, accepts a $500 donation to help former Royal Purple member Rhonda Lecopoy with her battle against cancer.

ELK POINT ROYAL PURPLE treasurer RubyAnn Kittlitz was happy to present $2,000 to Albert Boratynec to support Haying in the '30s.

SUPPORT FOR SANTAS - RubyAnn Kittlitz presented Sandy Kummetz of Elk Point Community Lions with $2,000 for Santas Anonymous.

SPERD sees lower than expected preliminary enrolment numbers

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

Due to lower than expected enrolment numbers, St. Paul Education Regional Division may be faced with some tough decisions.

At the Sept. 12 SPERD board meeting, Superintendent Glen Brodziak explained that as of the last update, which was put together on Sept. 11, enrolment was over 100 students lower than projected.

"The fact is, rural schools are getting smaller," said Brodziak, adding, the numbers are "concerning."

Another enrolment count will be done later this week, and a final count will take place at the end of September.

"Sooner or later, we'll be looking to the board for some direction (if the trend continues)," said the superintendent.

SPERD administration and board members worked to trim $1 million from its budget earlier this year.

"We did a lot of work to cut $1 million," said Brodziak.

And while there could be some saving on the other side of things, it still doesn't negate the fact that there will likely be an increased shortfall. If "today's numbers" were used, it would equate to a $1 million difference in the budget, said Secretary-Treasurer Jean Champagne, during his financial report.

Brodziak said that while the division doesn't ask for classroom configurations, and prides itself on small class sizes, one route that could be taken would be to combine classes, or work around a maternity leave positions.

"Behind those numbers, there's people. There are staff members," said Brodziak, as he acknowledged that many of the things that could be considered aren't ideal.

Primarily, the decline in enrolment numbers is being seen in the rural outlying communities. The trend was noticed with the decline in the economy a couple years ago.

(Continued on Page 8)

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1005. Help Wanted

St. Paul Education
Regional Division No.1

Learning Together, Growing Together

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CLASS II NEW MYRNAM SCHOOL

A 1.0 FTE Administrative Support Class II is required for New Myrnam School commencing as soon as a suitable candidate can be found.

Applicants must possess superior computer skills with an ability to learn quickly a variety of programs and management systems, including Excel, Word and Publisher. This position requires strong organizational skills, excellent interpersonal skills, the ability to work independently and maintain strict confidence. Responsibilities include: telephone, reception and intercom duties, maintenance and updating of school records, human resources duties, financial management and other duties as required.

For additional information, contact **Mr. Keith Gamblin,** Principal, at **780-366-3801.**

Submit resumes by **September 23, 2018** to Keith_Gamblin@sperd.ca, by fax to (780) 366-2332 or by mail to:

Mr. Keith Gamblin
Principal, New Myrnam School
Box 160
Myrnam, AB T0B 3K0

In accordance with Board Policy, the successful candidate will be required to provide a current Criminal Record Check and a Child Intervention Check.

We thank you for your interest; however, only the applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

1005. Help Wanted

St. Paul Education
Regional Division No.1

Learning Together, Growing Together

Computer Technician - Level 1

St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1 requires a Computer Technician Level 1 to assist our IT department in providing support services for school staff, students, school computers and networks. As a Computer Technician 1, you will be providing and assisting staff and students with their desktop support services both in person and remotely. Some of your key responsibilities include: providing excellent customer service; troubleshooting and resolving technical issues; providing desktop related advice; deployment of hardware and software; deployment of new or replacement desktops and laptops; and other duties. This Computer Technician will be assigned mainly to the Heinsburg, Elk Point Elementary, and Elk Point Outreach Schools. The successful candidate will be provided training and mentorship. Salary will depend on qualifications and experience. Position to commence as soon as a suitable candidate is found.

For additional information regarding the job description and commencement date, please contact **Mrs. Kandy Songer at 780-645-3323.**

Resumes should be submitted no later than **September 21, 2018** to:

Mrs. Kandy Songer, Principal at Large
St. Paul Education Reg. Div. No. 1
4313-48 Avenue, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A3

Fax (780) 645-5789
E-mail: principalatlarge@sperd.ca

Successful candidate must possess their own vehicle, a valid driver's license, driver's license abstract and a cell phone.

In accordance with Board Policy, the successful applicant will be required to provide a current Criminal Record Check and Alberta Children's Intervention Record Check.

Only those applicants shortlisted will be notified.

1005. Help Wanted

Are You Looking for a Rewarding Career in the Service Rig Industry?

Pimee Well Servicing LP is a Service Rig company located in North-Eastern Alberta. Pimee Well Servicing LP has been in operation since 1984 in the Heavy Oil industry. Pimee is currently recruiting **Experienced Thermal Service Rig** personnel for the following positions:

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For further information or to submit current resume and applicable safety tickets.

Please forward to the attention of :
Vern John, Human Resource Manager
Tel: (780) 826–6392 Ext. 27
Fax: (780) 826–6399
Email: vern.j@pimee.com
Website: www.pimee.com

Applicants MUST possess the following Safety Certification Tickets:
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- First Aid & CPR,
- H2S Alive,
- PST/CSTS,
- TDG,
- WHMIS and
- Other applicable tickets.

Pimee Well Servicing LP provides a Competitive Wage and Benefit package, as well as, Scheduled shifts. Applicants should be safety conscientious as safety is Pimee's main concern.

OFF TO A GREAT START - F. G. Miller Senior Boys Crusaders found a great way to start the high school volleyball season with a first place finish in a tournament in Cold Lake. The boys played some incredible games, and played some really tough games against some really strong teams, including beating Lloydminster Holy Rosary in two sets. Debbie Nazarchuk photo

Iron Horse

(Continued from Page 3)

Flags will mark the route, and locals are also asked not to touch the markers to ensure the safety of athletes. Work is still being done to firm up the final route, due to construction on Moosehills Road, in the Elk Point area. The work affects about 500 metres of the run, but organizers are working with the County of St. Paul to ensure the area is safe for runners.

With a week left for registration, Poulin said more teams could be added to the number of participants. She says it's also typical to see a few solo runners drop off due to injuries as the date nears.

"When you train for distance running, injuries happen, but they are always hopeful to be race-day ready, but at some point they have to choose," and that can be a tough decision that is often left to the last minute.

This year marks 10 years for the Iron Horse Ultra. Poulin says the committee has worked hard over the years to grow the event, which is put on thanks to sponsoring businesses from St. Paul and Elk Point, a number of volunteers, and landowners who allow the race to cross their land for the weekend event. Organizers are still looking for more volunteers to help with this year's run.

Anyone interested can contact Poulin via email at ironhorseultra@gmail.com, and she says even if people can simply show up to help cheer on the runners, it's helpful.

The Iron Horse Ultra is part of the Alberta Ultra Series.

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

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1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

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3010. Auctions

INDY GRAPHICS GROUP Auction, 7659 Edgar Ind. Dr. Red Deer, AB Tues. Sept 25 @ 10am. Selling Manlift Truck, Service Van, Trucks, Trailer, Scissor Lift, Digital Printers & Vinyl Cutters, Flat Bed Printing Equip, Silk Screen, Sewing Machines & More. Live & on-line. www.montgomeryauctions.com 1-800-371-6963.

3010. Auctions

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3010. Auctions

WATERWELL CORING Equipment Auction, Sat. Sept 29, 2018, 10AM Red Deer, AB. West Hwy 11, South 1KM Burn Lake Trail. Trucks/ PU, Skid shacks, Office trailers, Coring equipment/trailers. www.shieldsauctions.com & Facebook. Email: ios.john@yahoo.ca; Johnny; 403-464-0202, Cochrane, AB.

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RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Shutdown bid fails, trucks keep rolling

CLARE GAUVREAU
Review Staff

A called for shutdown of owner/operator trucks hauling fluid for Canadian Natural in the region last week failed to get the support needed to make much of an impact with only about 17 per cent of the recently formed 300-member strong Truckers United Association parking their trucks Wednesday morning.

Andrew Bykowsky and Peter Turner, representing the truckers' association, told the St. Paul Journal last Tuesday afternoon that CNRL's failure to agree to a face-to-face meeting with them to discuss several issues, with trucking rates being by far and away the biggest concern, left them with no alternative but to call members to participate in a stop work protest in an attempt to shut down the movement of CNRL fluid in the region.

Bykowsky maintained owner/operators are being crushed by the cost of living including high fuel prices, insurance, truck payments and repair costs. Fluid haulers were hit with rate cuts of upwards of 30 per cent in 2014 and despite some recovery in oil prices, the truckers rates have not increased.

"I'm hoping for absolutely every truck from the Lloydminster to the Bonnyville area to park. It's time for the guys to stand up and get back what they deserve. Tomorrow morning is going to be the big tell."

However, when it came down to truckers putting their livelihoods on the line and shutting down Wednesday, it appears it was too much to ask.

"Things didn't go quite as we were expecting today and I am a little disappointed, but I also fully understand that the majority of guys are too scared to shut down and commit to our movement," Bykowsky stated on the Truckers United Facebook page late Wednesday. "Unfortunately, only about 17 per cent of the guys that we had on board committed and shut down."

Turner, an activist and lobbyist in the trucking industry, had been bought in by the local group to work on the truckers' behalf to negotiate with CNRL for better rates.

"Most of the truckers here are so deep in debt it's unbelievable and they owe everybody. What CNRL has done is induced a recession in the oilfields that they control and the towns that are within their control. They have basically put these towns into recession."

When contacted by the Journal, CNRL public affairs spokesperson Julie Woo did not address the call for a shutdown specifically, but instead reiterated CNRL's position that the lack of market access continues to have a significant impact on local oil activity.

"Canadian Natural recognizes and appreciates that our service providers have shared the significant challenges facing our industry which continues to persist due to pipeline constraints and lack of market access. Lack of market access has causes Canadian Natural and the heavy oil industry to shut-in production and suspend drilling programs and activities in the heavy oil region resulting in significant impact to the local economy."

Woo said activity in the heavy oil regional is slowing down and it will continue to be challenged in the near future. Since 2014, Woo stated Canadian Natural's heavy oil production has decreased by 38 per cent with heavy oil drilled reduced by 24 per cent from the first quarter in 2018 to the second quarter.

"The reduction in heavy oil drilling and production as well as a 40 per cent drop in service rig utilization means less service sector work available."

Woo stated Canadian Natural continues to meet directly with truck servicing firms that are contracted to provide hauling services for its heavy oil operations.

"To ensure the right conditions for sustainable crude oil and natural gas development into the future, Canadian Natural continues to work together with service providers, local communities and governments across our operations on this shared goal."

She explained the price differentials between West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Western Canada Select (WCS) prices are volatile and continue to widen with uncertainty.

"This is a serious challenge because heavy oil producers receive the lower price for WCS for their production, primarily due to the restricted pipeline access. Heavy oil has limited ways out of Canada given pipeline constraints and the increasing uncertainty about when these constraints will ease."

Woo said heavy oil prices will continue to sell at a discounted price until the challenges are addressed to access broader markets.

Meanwhile, the Journal was unable to reach Bykowsky for comment, but according to his social media, it appears he feels he's done all he can to rally local truckers to help recoup the rate cuts they've been hit with the last few years.

"I feel like we've had a lot of success. We just didn't have the commitment needed to move forward."

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SPERD

(Continued from Page 6)

Brodziak said that he will be looking for some direction from the board, later in the month. For now, administration is going to wait and see what the next count looks like.

New Teachers

In his superintendent's report, Brodziak noted that there are 10 new first-year teachers within the division this school year, and five new teachers with some experience. Those number are "about normal," and SPERD continues to have a lower than average turnover rate.

Brodziak also spoke about how the number of teachers applying for positions has significantly declined over the years.

"It is hard to find teachers," he said. Last year, SPERD attended the University of Alberta fair, but didn't find much success there, and will not being doing it again, said Brodziak.

While it used to be hard to find specific teachers, such as those who teach French or high school sciences, "it's across the board now."

Some positions, such as elementary teaching positions, used to get 50 to 60 applications, now, "we're glad if we get 15," said Brodziak.

Capital Projects

Outside work at the Two Hills Mennonite School continues to progress.

"It is going slower than we would have liked," said Champagne, but it is still progressing.

Work also continues to be done at the CTEC facility in Myrnam. A few delays have occurred, and work should be done by mid-October.

Work to install outdoor lighting around the football field at the St. Paul Regional High School is also ongoing. The project is being headed by the St. Paul football club but is taking place on SPERD property.

It is hopeful that the lighting will be installed by the end of the month, said Champagne.

Satisfaction survey

The division is looking to do its satisfaction survey on a different timeline, to allow for better budget considerations, and overall better planning.

The survey, which hasn't been done in about three years, will likely be sent out at the end of October, said Superintendent Glen Brodziak. The question of offering the survey electronically was also asked.

Brodziak noted that the more responses received from everyone, the "cleaner" the results.

Board chair Heather Starosielski noted that the new timeline would help when the board discusses its budget and plans for the next year.

Organizational Meeting

Prior to the Sept. 12 board meeting, trustees held their organization meeting for the year. Starosielski was acclaimed as the board chairperson, and Ruven Rajoo was acclaimed as the as vice-chairperson.

New Website

A new SPERD website is nearly ready to be launched. The website should be easier to navigate on a desktop and mobile device, and is part of a rebranding project that the SPERD board took on. The division's new logo was unveiled prior to the end of the 2017-18 school year.

The board is also exploring the idea of have an app that would be used for transportation/inclement weather purposes and to communicate with parents.

The inclement weather policy, the new Ashmont School and the future of Mallaig School were also discussed.